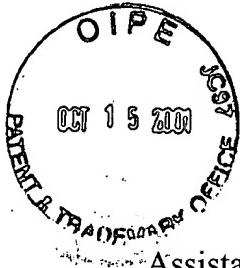


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: H. Kutsumi et al. : Art Unit: 2122
Serial No.: 09/851,791 : Examiner:
Filed: May 9, 2001 :
FOR: INFORMATION RECOMMENDATION :
APPARATUS AND INFORMATION :
RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM :

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following newly added claims 40-44:

1 40. (Newly Added) In a system including a users computer accessing a
2 remote database using a communications network, a method of obtaining a group
3 of items from the database comprising the steps of:

4 (a) storing a plurality of groupings of items in the database, each
5 grouping having (1) objective characteristics including items free-of human
6 decisions and (2) subjective characteristics including items resulting from human
7 decisions;

8 (b) assigning a numerical value for each of the objective and subjective
9 characteristics of a respective grouping;

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01 FC:103
02 FC:102

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